

MAYOR
ANTHONY S. CANDELORA

DEPUTY MAYOR
JOANNE S. WENTWORTH

TOWN MANAGER
MICHAEL T. PAULHUS



COUNCIL MEMBERS
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DANIEL ARMIN
VINCENT P. CAPRIO
MARIE E. DIAMOND
JOSEPH E. FAUGHNAN
DONALD J. FUCCI, II
ALFRED D. ROSE

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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Minutes Economic Development Commission Special Meeting October 19, 2015

1. Call to order and roll call

Member Jan Finch called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Present: Elisabeth Caplan, Diana Pelliccio, Jan Finch and Joan Tutor

Also present: Town Manager Michael Paulhus

Visitors: George Miller, Chris Kranick and Virginia Fallon

2. Update on 1599 Foxon Road - North Branford

Town Manager Michael Paulhus gave an overview of the current status of Centerplan. He reported that the negotiation committee consisting of himself along with Councilor Joseph Faughnan and Town Attorney John Gesmonde would be meeting with Centerplan to discuss timing performance, deposit, housing and working with the DOT. They would also be addressing the environmental on the property.

Mr. Paulhus gave an overview of a grant opportunity initiated by the State. Mr. Paulhus updated the Commission on past and present status of environmental of the property. Town Planner Carey Duques will assist with grant application.

Commission members discussed environmental phases 1, 2, & 3 of the property and the predemolition of the buildings as well as moving from the MOU to the actual project.

Commission members questioned the best way to stress their commitment to rental housing being incorporated into the project.

Mr. Paulhus explained the hurdles to get the desired number of units in the plan.

3. Discussion on Upcoming initiatives for upcoming year

Commission members discussed the need for a brochure and business cards, it was suggested members gather brochures from neighboring towns, with each member assigned an area. The organization of a “coffee” or other event to attract businesses was also discussed.

There were examples of various informational sheets reviewed and members discussed options for outreach of businesses through a database at the Branford Blackstone Library. Concord.org was also suggested for LLC’s and corporations.

A discussion on aligning with the chamber began, with all in agreement that the EDC should work closely with the chamber as a team to bring programs to businesses. It was decided that the Chamber would be invited to an upcoming meeting, possibly in November to share ideas.

The following bullet points were identified as priorities:

- Brochure
- Looking at area towns
- Invite internal partners quarterly (Planning & Zoning, etc.)
- Article during Christmas season highlighting businesses in Totoket Times
- Monthly themed business recognition
- Occasional “coffee” programs for businesses, with a spotlight business as sponsor.

4. Discussion on Business Visitation Program

Commission Members discussed ways to contact businesses in town and businesses that have either closed or relocated to area towns, sharing ideas on ways to reach out to businesses to get input and guidance. A priority list was suggested as the best way to get started.

There was discussion on a time for 2016 meetings to be held, members agreed to attempt to set the time for 6:00 pm

Chairman Finch and Member Caplan spoke about their attendance at the Ct. APA and Ct Development Dinner in Cheshire.

Member Pelleccio suggested they look for ways for outreach to the community introducing the public to the EDC members. Member Caplan will reach out to Frank at Totoket TV.

There was discussion on attracting the appropriate candidates for membership on the EDC, members decided after the election there should be a push to reach out to the community.

5. Adjournment

Member Pelliccio made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Member Tutor. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Caruso
Recording Secretary